LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Choose two letters from the paper which interest you and answer these questions:

* What is the issue?
* Where do we become aware of the writer’s attitude to the issue?
* Does the writer capture our attention at the beginning? How?
* How many points / arguments does the writer make in support of his/her opinion?
* Does the writer back up each argument with evidence? Does the evidence comprise of facts, statistics, personal opinion, anecdote, use of authority or other means?
* How does the writer separate one point from the next?
* How does the writer conclude? (A call for action? A question to leave the reader thinking? An emotive statement?)

Look closely at the language can you recognise any of the following in the letters:

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

EMOTIONAL WORDS (POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE EMOTIONS)

RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

STATISTICS AND FACTUAL IDEAS

PERSONAL ANECDOTES

REPETITION OF WORDS

REPETITION OF SENTENCE PATTERN (PARALLEL STRUCTURE) E.G BETTER HEALTH, BETTER HOMES, BETTER OPPORTUNITIES.

SHORT SIMPLE SENTENCES

FIGURES OF SPEECH I.E. METAPHOR, SIMILE, PERSONIFICATION

ALLITERATION HYPERBOLE ALLUSIONS

* What do you think the writer did well / how could they improve it?
* Why do you think the editor decided to publish this letter?
* Are there any points / details that are irrelevant?
* Is the language suitable for a newspaper? Why?